



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Free Press' Lisa McEwan filled a pickup with leftover copies of the newspaper to be recycled. Recycling newsprint is just one of many things to do to recognize Earth Day on Tuesday. Lynette Koon, program coordinator of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization, said one full green bin at the center equals about 600 pounds and one ton of newspapers equals 17 trees saved.

## Children study how to put scriptures to use daily

TOPEKA (AP) — The children, who seemingly were coming out of the woodwork, were full of laughter and excitement as they bounded down a set of stairs to the church basement for the start of another weekly Awana program, which includes games, Bible verse memorization, treats and gospel presentations.

While children enjoy the Awana games, the program is first and foremost an evangelistic effort designed to reach young people and their parents with the Gospel.

"It's a Christ-centered program that's Scripture-based," said Chris Driggers, an Awana missionary from Topeka who is working primarily in Kansas and the Kansas City area. "The children memorize a lot of Scripture, and they learn how to apply it to their lives."

Awana is hardly a new program. It has been around since 1950 after starting in a single Chicago church. Since then, the program has grown. It now can be found in more than 11,000 U.S. churches and more than 3,000 in more than 100 other nations around the world. Materials are constantly updated to be attractive to each new generation of children.

Awana, based in Streamwood, Ill., is an acronym that stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed," taken from a Scripture passage in 2 Timothy 2:15, though the longer phrase is rarely used to identify the program. Awana serves children ages 2 to 18.

Though Awana is found in more than 100 Christian denominations, it is particularly popular in Southern Baptist churches.

Awana can be found in about a dozen Topeka churches, including First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 S.W. Gage, which is where Driggers became involved with the program.

Driggers said her son, Tanner, 10, who accompanies her on visits to churches across the state, memorizes about 50 Bible verses each year through Awana.

"As a mom, it's awesome to realize he's memorized those verses," Driggers said. "But he remembers them, then knows how to apply them to his life."

Driggers said game time is one

AWANA is available in Colby at the Berean Church. Call 460-2763 for more information.

of Awana's prime attractions. Children divide into age-based groups — with names such as Cubbies, Sparks and Trek — at the outset of each week's program, which lasts about 90 minutes. Groups also are divided according to gender, with boys meeting separately from girls.

Each age group gets a turn at playing games, some of which revolve around the Awana circle, which is taped onto the basement floor.

Games like dodge ball also are part of the night's activities.

"It's like recess, but it's structured," Driggers said of the games. "The kids have a blast."

Besides the games, the children take part in small-group activities that include Bible memorization and lessons from an Awana book.

Beyond the children, Awana strives to reach parents, Driggers said.

"Some parents will drop their kids off at a church and they'll never step foot inside the door," Driggers said. "But they'll come to see their children play Awana games and when they do, they'll hear a clear Gospel message."

In the past year, leaders say, there have been 10 salvations, or youngsters accepting Christ, at Bethel Baptist Church's Awana program.

Jeremy Ruiz, 11, said he became a Christian a year ago through the Awana program at Bethel.

Since then, Jeremy said, "I started reading the Bible every night, and I've been studying my Awana book a lot."

Middle school and high school students in some Awana clubs go to rented gyms for their meetings. Like their younger counterparts, they, too, play games and have Bible-based lessons.

Another Awana missionary serving western Missouri and Kansas is Joel Culberson, who with his wife, Veronica, assists at the Bethel Baptist club.

The Culbersons' daughter, Tiffany, 9, has grown up in Awana and said she particularly likes "theme nights" that include "wacky hair days" and other such events.

Tiffany said children can earn "shekels," or Awana play money, that can be cashed in once a month for prizes another incentive for

participation and Bible memorization.

Her favorite part of each meeting, even better than seeing her friends, is saying the Bible verses she memorized.

"Because you're learning God's word," she said. "And that's the main point about Awana."

# SHARE the FAITH

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH.** Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

## Schedule of church services

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH,** 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL,** Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH,** 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,** (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH,** Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH,** 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC,** 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,** Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, following worship.; Sept. thru May: Kid's Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH,** 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,** 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.,** 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com

**CHURCH OF CHRIST,** 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH,** (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Pat Stuart and Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,** Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH,** Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH,** Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH,** 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH,** Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD,** Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH,** Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH,** Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

**General Public Transportation Van**  
**Hours: 8 am to 4 pm**  
**Days: Monday - Friday**  
**Phone:**  
**460-2901 (8 am-12:30 pm)**  
**443-9208 (12:30 pm - 4 pm)**  
 If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.  
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## Muslim group asks inquiry on alleged threats against school

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — An Islamic advocacy group has asked police and the FBI to investigate reported threats against a Twin Cities charter school attended by many Muslims.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) made the request after the director of Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy in Inver Grove Heights, a Twin Cities suburb, told police that he and the school had received threatening and harassing phone messages and e-mails.

The school said the threats began after a newspaper columnist questioned whether the publicly funded K-8 school promotes Islam.

Chris Schumacher, a spokes-

man for the Minnesota chapter of CAIR, called it "a sad reflection" of the level anti-Muslim feeling that has reached in U.S. society that the council has apparently resulted in "hatred directed at innocent students."

Identifying the threats as possible hate crimes makes it clear that prejudice could have prompted them, and "we wanted to bring that to light in case that wasn't already obvious to people," he said.

Police said they are investigating. Special Agent Paul McCabe of the Minneapolis FBI office said agents will contact the school to get more details. Identifying possible hate crimes would put them under the jurisdiction of federal investigators.

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